

THE CROWNING OF A POPE

March 31, 1997 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org) -

On March 12, 1939, Eugenio Pacelli was crowned Pope Pius XII. It was this pope, in 1950, who proclaimed the Dogma of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, claiming that Mary was assumed up into Heaven bodily where she reigns as Queen of Heaven. The following description of the coronation of Pius XII is from an eyewitness account --

"The coronation [of Pius XII on March 12, 1939] itself was surprisingly brief. A cardinal-deacon stepped toward the throne, and removed the miter from the Holy Father's head. As he backed away, the senior cardinal-deacon came forward holding the triple crown in his outstretched hands. There was a flurry of scarlet silk as he made his obeisance. Holding the tiara over the Pontiff, he said in slow clear tones, 'RECEIVE THE TIARA ADORNED WITH THREE CROWNS, AND KNOW THAT YOU ARE THE FATHER OF PRINCES AND KINGS, THE PASTOR OF THE UNIVERSE AND THE VICAR ON EARTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, TO WHOM BELONGS HONOR AND GLORY, NOW AND FOREVER, WORLD WITHOUT END.'

"Then he slowly lowered the crown onto the dark head before him.

"That was all, but as the weight of the great tiara pressed down on Pius' brow, the full import of the ancient formula exalted his mind. He was Ruler, Father, Vicar, and he was no longer afraid.

"Still crowned with the tiara, Pius raised himself, and descending the podium, walked to the balustrade. Slight though he was, the majesty of the Church seemed to enlarge him, as he stretched out his arms to all that throng, and all the world. His voice rang clear and sonorous as he said, 'May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost descend upon you, and remain with you forever!'" (Alden Hatch and Seamus Walshe, *Crown of Glory: The Life of Pope Pius XII*, 1957, pp. 138,139).